

1-7-2026 GTWSA Wednesday, January 7, 2026 Board Meeting

The pledge of Allegiance was recited at the organization meeting

Call to order at 6:36 pm

Roll Call:

Ray Penkowski (chairman), Bruce Vollbrecht (Vice-chairman), Jodi Fairchild (Treasurer), Karen Mead (Secretary), David Sterrett

Ashley Porter (Porter Consulting Engineer), Pete Dion (Girard Township Supervisor), Pat Kennedy (Knox Law Firm)

Approval of minutes: 11/12/25 Motion: Bruce Vollebrecht 2nd Jodi Fairchild Vote Unanimous 5-0

Old Business

Birchdale

Engineer report: Ashley Porter

DEP (Donna Ulan Smith) responded to a project update via correspondence on 12/16/25

PCE (Porter Consulting Engineers) stated the system informatin has gaps – other than that, PCE has almost everything needed (file reviews, interviewed operators, field observation) to move forward with the GTWSA project.

PCE needs continued investigation of the 54 home owner (HO) properties to locate septic tanks/pipe flow in order to begin preliminary designs and estimate project cost. PCE's preliminary findings lead toward the possible elimination of individual septic tanks due to appropriate pipe flow (if they meet standard requirements) able to accept full sewage flow.

David Sterrett commented: Septic tank abandonment (and installing bypass pipes) may be less expensive to home owner in the future: possibly eliminating pumping costs yearly and tap in fees.

Ashley Porter commented: The PennVest (loan company) does not cover septic tank abandonment. Some properties may need grinders in addition to bypass pipes. PCE will need to investigate these findings in more depth on each property. Total of 54 homes (presently 20% of tanks have been located)

Pat Kennedy and Porter Consulting Engineers (using PCE letterhead) will draft a 2nd notice letter (consistent to April, 2025 notice) to the Home Owners Association (HOA) informing

the Home Owners Association (HOA) that PCE will be on property to continue to investigate the GTWSA project. Motion: David Sterrett^{2nd}: Jodi Fairchild Vote: Unanimous 5-0

Pat Kennedy and Porter Consulting Engineers are continuing to review the intermunicipal agreement draft including: Terms: 60 days, Define Expanded capacity, define exhibit A regarding “joint sewer transporting system”, metering at point of connection rather than township line, percentage of doblar, verify the flow pattern (through all 3 pump stations), and cost share.

Solicitor Report

Pat Kennedy will finish Intermunicipal draft after she receives edits from Ashley Porter.

Pat Kennedy will reach out to Erie’s new solicitor: Art Martinucci

Jodi Fairchild asked if the GTWSA needs to write an ordinance to protect business’s water usage in Girard Township. Ashley Porter replied: Girard Township Water and Sewer Authority has no asset to protect. Presently, it is irrelevant to GTWSA. Girard Township and GTWSA may need to work together to create an ordinance in the future.

New Business (none)

Correspondance:

Knox Law Firm fee rate (December 29, 2025)

Girard Township Westgate sewer Rate increase (January 1, 2026)

Letter to PNC bank (4183 Persimmon Drive) from Peter Dion, Girard Township Supervisor regarding issues with present septic systems (November 18, 2026)

Public Comment

Pete Dion received a text from Sandy Anderson asking for an update on Porter Engineering Investigations.

Adjournment at 7:33 pm

Motion: Bruce Vollbrecht ^{2nd} Jodi Fairchild Vote: Unanimous 5-0